Decline in Steel Exports

†4356. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of steel has came down during the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the export of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In terms of quantity, export of steel has declined during the year 2004-05. The reason for the decline in export is the gap between domestic demand for and supply of steel. While the total steel production in April-December 2004-05 was up by only about 4%, the consumption increased by 6%. The gap was bridged by import of steel.

With a view to maintaining competitiveness in the export of steel, the Government has revoked the suspension of DEPB rates on steel items with effect from 12th July 2004 vide Public Notice 71.

Closure of Major, Medium and SSIs

4357. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of major, medium and small scale industries which have been closed or on the verge of closure for the last three years;

(b) the effective steps being taken to revive these industries in National interest; and

(c) the number of sick industries that were revived during the last year and the number of industries to be revived during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The State-wise number of units reported closed during the last three years is at Statement (*See below*).

(b) Besides providing a policy regime that facilitates and fosters growth

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.